



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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22nd CD UPDATE: IS ABORTION THE KEY ISSUE IN THIS SPECIAL ELECTION?? SOME SAY "NO WAY."

Editor's note: With the Jan. 13th special to replace the late Walter Capps(D) just a day away, the **abortion** issue is back, but it may not be on the front burner. Here is **Calpeek's** final update & analysis...

...There is not any doubt Lois Capps (Walter's widow) will finish atop a field of six and will be the Democratic nominee. The polling we've heard of puts Capps in the low-to-mid **40%** range, with her two main GOP rivals, Assemblymembers Brooks Firestone and Tom Bordonaro, in the low **20%** range. And our sources suspect Firestone, who is better funded, may have a slight edge over Bordonaro. However, it depends on who actually casts ballots. There are more GOP voters registered inside Bordonaro's 33rd AD than in Firestone's 35th AD. That's the equalizing factor. **Calpeek** sources anticipate a 23-33% turnout on Jan. 13th, but it could be a little lower. The NRCC hired Gilliard, Blanning & Assoc. to produce 3 generic mailers aimed at hiking the GOP vote because a low Republican vote could push Capps over the 50% mark. A runoff, which seems more likely, will be held Mar. 10th...

...Now to issues and endorsements. **Abortion** has raised its head on the GOP side. Bordonaro is pro-life; Firestone is pro-choice. Enter the *Family Research Council*, headed by Gary Bauer, who is trying to run an independent expenditure campaign on behalf of Bordonaro. But **Calpeek** sources say Bauer was told that abortion was **not** as good an issue as taxes, in light of Firestone's statement that he had the courage to raise taxes. Regardless, the FRC decided to point out the differences between Bordonaro and Firestone on late term abortions in tv ads. The news media has reported this, but as an issue our sources say abortion is a dud. While some cable tv stations accepted the ads, the 3

regular tv stations have refused to carry them (too graphic). FYI: sources report that Bordonaro's own campaign has been up on tv during this final week...

...Enter former GOP Assembly Leader Curt Pringle, a member of the *Orange Co. GOP Junta* and a true conservative. So why has he endorsed Firestone, a moderate, over Bordonaro? It's payback time, because Bordonaro tried to bounce Pringle from his GOP leadership job. Pringle is featured in at least one mailer and a tv spot for Firestone. Hardliners are really pissed at Pringle...

...FYI: You'll love Bordonaro's statement about Curt Pringle & House Speaker Newt Gingrich (another Firestone supporter): *"I refused to be a lackey for Pringle in the Assembly and won't be for the Speaker of the House of Representatives either."* Stay tuned...

A BIG WEEK: PROP. 208 DUMPED BY THE COURT AND WILSON GETS A NEW NICKNAME - THE BOND FAIRY.

Editor's note: Two major events took place the week of Jan. 5th: Federal Judge Lawrence Karlton ruled that Prop. 208 was **unconstitutional** and Gov. Pete Wilson(R) delivered his final State-of-the-State Address. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...Wilson's address first. Clearly Gov. Pete is worried about his 8-years in office and how people will remember him. Now that the State's economy is not only healthy, but booming, Wilson wants the history books to show that he was the governor who delivered a blue print for a massive upgrade & improvement of *Calif.'s huge infrastructure system*. A 1990s version of Gov. Pat Brown. What he's proposing is a multi-billion dollar bond package for the June & November ballots to fund his plan. Thus Wilson is now **the Bond Fairy** - wave a *magic wand* and hope that voters will approve his plan.

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What Californians are looking at is about \$8 billion in State bonds for **school construction**, with another \$8 billion in matching bonds at the local level. In addition, Wilson wants another \$1.3 billion in bonds for **flood control** and **water conservative** projects and yet another \$800 million for **environmental** projects...

...It's very ambitious and while legislative Demos will generally line up with Wilson, the governor may have a tough time selling the plan to his own GOP. For example, sources are sure his plan to have local schools pass \$8 billion in matching bonds is DOA. Why? Wilson's plan is based on lowering the local bond vote from a 2/3rds to simple 50% majority vote. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Assn. is already raising hell. Making it easier to tax just doesn't fly with most conservative Republicans. More next week...

...And now for Prop. 208, Calif.'s *campaign finance reform law*. In Judge Karlton's 42-page ruling, the key sentence was this (picked up as the lead paragraph by most daily newspapers throughout Calif.): *"The effect of the initiative is not only to significantly reduce a Calif. candidate's ability to deliver his or her message, but in fact to make it impossible for the ordinary candidate to mount an effective campaign for office."*

What Karlton was talking about was the **restrictive language** of 208, which not only limited campaign spending, but also the ability to raise money. The low amounts allowed in legislative races would have been OK in 1966 or even as late as 1976, but were way too low for the late 1990s and beyond, given what it costs of run for elective office. A very big win for both the Calif. Demo & Republican Parties. Judge Karlton has ordered the FPPC to go to the Calif. Supreme Court to see if any individual sections of 208 can be "severed" from the overall initiative. Backers of 208 say they will appeal, but given Judge Karlton's expertise in dealing with campaign reform law, our sources say the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will probably uphold Karlton's decision. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS' DIRECTORY ON SALE

The new, 1998 6th edition of **Calpeek's Directory of Campaign Consultants** is for sale to subscribers at just \$15. Cost for **non-subscribers** is \$50. Checks **ONLY**. No invoicing and no credit cards...

CAMPAIGN '98: U.S. REP. BONO DIES IN MISHAP.

Editor's note: A sudden death has now taken a second member of Calif.'s U.S. House delegation. This time it was U.S. Rep. Sonny Bono, the popular GOPer from Palm Springs, who died Jan. 5th in a skiing accident while on vacation with his family in South Lake Tahoe. On Oct. 28th of last year, U.S. Rep. Walter Capps(D-Santa Barbara) died of a heart attack. So now Calif.'s 52-member delegation is down by 2 and on Feb. 6th will be down yet one more when U.S. Rep. Ron Delums(D-Oakland) retires. Here's our analysis...

...Bono was one of the more popular members of the U.S. House and was the #2 draw at political fundraisers for GOP House members & candidates (Speaker Newt Gingrich is #1). In 1992, then Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono ran for the U.S. Senate against Bruce Herschensohn and Tom Campbell. He ended up 3rd, but might have finished stronger with better funding and preparation. The lack of preparation led some to think he was a *buffoon*, but Bono wasn't dumb - far from it. In fact, he enjoyed great success in the music/tv industry and one can't be stupid and succeed in that line of work...

...In '94, when former GOP Congressman Al McCandless retired, Bono ran for the 44th CD and finished first in a field of 6 Republicans in the June primary. He mashed former Demo Assemblyman Steve Clute that November with 56% of the vote and won reelection in '96 against Demo Anita Rufus with 58%. He was a slam dunk for reelection '98 and beyond...

...In the Spring of '97 Bono flirted briefly with a U.S. Senate run, but backed away after testing the waters. His name ID was far above Fong, Golding or Issa. He might have won the GOP nomination had he decided to run, but that's just our spin...

...The 44th CD is solid GOP turf, with a 42.08% Demo registration vs. 43.9% for the GOP. As for a replacement, the only name to surface is that of GOP Assemblyman Jim Battin of Palm Desert, but there are a number of other elected officials who might be interested. Insiders think Gov. Pete Wilson will call a special for April 7th, with a runoff to coincide with the June 2nd primary. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: ODDS & ENDS FROM AROUND CALIF.

Editor's note: Several campaign developments to report in this week's issue...

☒ **Governor's Race** - Demo businessman Al Checchi is *happy camper* because it's now Lt. Gov. Gray Davis (D) who has to suffer with a negative story. A Jan. 5th article about Davis' campaign by Cathleen Decker of the *L.A. Times* is the source of Checchi's glee. The headline is actually more negative than the article itself: ***Davis' Drive for Governor Threatens to Stall En Route.*** Our reading is that it's a balanced piece, but not what Davis campaign mgr. Garry South would have ordered, had he been given a choice. One of the key points in Decker's story is what **Calpeek** has noted for some time: *it's possible Davis could get sandwiched between Dianne Feinstein and Checchi.* The Decker article should be on your reading list...

...As for U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, she's going to run. That's the word now being flashed to the news media by DiFi insiders. Two recent positive signs: 1) DiFi's announcement that she would sponsor an education reform initiative for the November ballot; and 2) Judge Karlton's decision to throw out Prop. 208 --- campaign finance reform...

...Not only is DiFi aided by Karlton's ruling, but so is Davis. He has a close circle of *fat cat* political donors who can now pop for big bucks --- and bet your first born Davis contacted them within minutes of hearing about the 208 ruling. FYI: Steve Smith, deputy cmp. mgr., has departed Davis' campaign to head up the daily operation for the NO side of CRI (labor bashing measure). Smith was a key player for Davis, so this is not especially good news for the LG...

☒ **U.S. Senate Race** - It's been fairly quiet for the past few weeks, but sources suspect it's the lull before the storm. As **Calpeek** noted last week, both GOPers Susan Golding and Matt Fong have reorganized their campaign teams. However, rumors continue to swirl that Golding *may drop out* of the U.S. Senate race and instead run for Lt. Governor, where the competition is *GOP Lite*. Look for an announcement very soon...

☒ **CA Treasurer's Race** - On the GOP side, the rumors appear to be true: Assemblyman Curt Pringle is getting ready to switch from the Controller's race to the

Treasurer's race. What this will mean to fellow Assemblyman Jan Goldsmith of Poway is unclear, but in the battle between San Mateo Co. Sup. Ruben Barrales and Goldsmith, the news media as well as GOP insiders have received what we call "Dueling Memos." The **Nov. 26th** memo by veteran strategist Stu Spencer got lots of news media attention because it not only was a pitch for Barrales' candidacy, but spelled out Spencer's long-held belief that unless the GOP changes direction, the party was in danger of losing the Latino vote. Then on **Dec. 11th**, UC Regent/209 backer Ward Connerly issued his own memo to GOP insiders. Connerly titled his memo, "Republican Party and Racial Politics." Connerly is backing Goldsmith and says in his memo that Spencer and some other GOP leaders are supporting Barrales over Goldsmith not because he is better qualified, but because of race...

CALIF. INITIATIVE UPDATE: CRI MEASURE MAKES JUNE BALLOT. 37 MEASURES STILL ON STREET.

Editor's note: The *Campaign Reform Initiative* (aka the anti-labor union measure) has qualified for the June 2nd ballot. So there will be 9 measures facing voters this June 2nd. It's anticipated that numbers will be assigned shortly after Jan. 22nd, the deadline for placing measures on the ballot. Here's a brief update on some of the 37 new measures now circulating...

◆ The Environmental Law Foundation in Oakland ☎(510)208-0455 has 5 statutes on the street all dealing with timber harvest practices. Each measure has a slightly different title. Each of the 5 require 433,269 valid signatures and the deadline for submitting the petitions is May 7th...

◆ Gerald Merel of the Planning & Conservation League has a series of 4 statutes & constitutional amendments all dealing with tax credits and air quality. PCL has until May 8th to collect the required signatures. ☎(916)444-8726...

◆ **State and County Early Childhood Development Programs. Additional Tobacco Surtax. Initiative Constitutional Amendment** is the official title of this measure sponsored by actor Rob Reiner, chair of *Calif. Children & Families First*. Deadline for submitting 693,230 signatures is May 11th...

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CHECCHI ADDRESSES SAN JOSE COMMONWEALTH.

Demo gubernatorial candidate Al Checchi will address the Commonwealth Club of CA (Silicon Valley forum), 11:45 a.m., Jan. 14, Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. For info (800)847-7730...

CALPEEK's SPINDUSTRIAL MEDIA AWARDS FOR '97.

Editor's note: For what it's worth, here is **Calpeek's** list top political stories, media awards and other trends about the news media for 1997...

■ **Top Calif. Political Stories** - 1) Legal actions against Term Limits, the Open Primary and Prop. 208; 2) running battle over allegations of illegal voting in the 46th CD between Bob Dornan (R) by Loretta Sanchez(D); 3) Latino political power in Calif.; and 4) the battle over public funding of sports facilities...

■ **Best Political/Investigative Story** - Philip Trounstine's Oct. 19th San Jose Mercury article about Demo Al Checchi and his record with Northwest Airline...

■ **High Impact Award** - To Steve Berry & Jeff Brazil for their L.A. Times series on assault weapons...

■ **Best Political Hit** - To Greg Lucas of the S.F. Chronicle for his "Fear and Bipartisan Loathing" story about State Controller Kathleen Connell(D)...

■ **News Item** - Publisher Wm. Dean Singleton's MediaNews Group buys the L.A. Daily News and the Long Beach Press Telegram. MNG also owns 3 other L.A. area papers...

■ **News Item** - Big cable tv merger between TeleCommunications, Inc.(TCI) and Century Communications. TCI/Century is now the largest regional cable system in Calif. FYI: Century Cable expects to launch 2 new p/a shows in '98 (one dealing with Campaign '98 and a second show dealing with nat'l/internat'l issues - both hosted by Bill Rosendahl)...

■ **News Item** - Retired: savvy political reporter Rollin Post of KRON-TV. Longtime political & Capitol reporter Jack Kavanaugh is no longer with KOVR-TV...

■ **News Item** - Mark H. Willes, Times Mirror Corp.'s CEO & chair, assumes additional title of LAT publisher. New LAT editor: Michael Parks, who replaced Shelby Coffey III...

■ **Best AM Radio Show** - Imus In the Morning. If you like your politics shaken/not stirred, you'll love Don Imus...

■ **Best PM Radio Show** - KABC's Stephanie Miller Show is a local version of Imus --- very sassy and smart...

■ **Spice Girls Spinning Right** - Kellyanne Fitzpatrick, Laura Ingraham, Arianna Huffington & Susan Carpenter McMillan...

■ **Over-Exposed Power Couple of '97** - Paula Corbin Jones and Marv Albert Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Former KXTV news editor Jennifer Whitty has joined the Sacto office of APCO Associates as a project assistant...

● L.A. Co. Sup. Don Knabe named Chairman Pro Tem of the Board of Supes...

● Adan Ortega Jr. has been hired by SOS Bill Jones as Asst. SOS, to be based in L.A...

● Long Beach Councilwoman Jenny Oropeza has been elected to the Bd. of Directors Nat'l League of Cities. She's the only Californian on the Board...

● New address for veteran campaign consultant Stu Spencer, who has left Orange Co. for Sacto: 1121 "L" Street, Ste. 407, Sacto 95914. ☎(916)447-8764...

● Gregory B. Harrison has joined Godbe Research & Analysis as a research coordinator. Harrison was an aide to U.S. Rep. Lynn Woolsey(D-Sonoma County)...

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